

# opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • February/March 2009

## Oreskes Says "Digital Natives" Have the Advantage

### EVENT RECAP: FEBRUARY 13

by Jane Reilly

"Those pronouncing the death of journalism are wrong," said Michael Oreskes, managing editor, U.S. news, for the Associated Press. Before an audience of nearly 200 assembled at the Overseas Press Club Foundation Annual Scholarship Luncheon at the Yale Club on Friday, February 13, he explained that in this age of information overload, only journalism can be charged with the vital task of "separating the wheat from the chaff and to see that the chaff is printed," alluding to a comment made by philosopher Emmett Hubbard 100 years ago.

Oreskes maintained that while some may view that overload as a potentially fatal problem to journalism, it is "in fact, the opportunity that we as journalists cannot afford to miss, for our own sake and for the sake of democratic societies." Although down in North America and Europe, the total circulation of paid and free newspapers is up around the world, he said. "There is compelling evidence that the appetite for knowledge and understanding of an increas-

ingly tangled and complex world is as great or maybe even greater than it has ever been."

But, while the future of journalism may be secure, there is a crisis for the current business model. The "old virtuous circle" of paid subscribers and advertisers paying to reach those readers to support news organizations is breaking down. The solution: "We have to adapt." He told the scholarship winners in the audience that they are at a competitive advantage in adapting to new media because they are, as Rupert Murdoch described, "digital natives," at home



Michael Dames

Michael Oreskes

in the new networked, linked-up, online, all-the-time world of the Internet. Describing himself as only

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## New Book on NYPD's Counterterrorism

### EVENT RECAP: FEBRUARY 2

by Charles Hack

A capacity audience was rewarded with a taste of Christopher Dickey's latest book on how New York City Police Department has been thwarting almost daily terrorist plots against its city, when the author of *Securing the City: Inside America's Best Counterterror Force — The NYPD* [Simon & Schuster, 2009], in a discussion with one of his principal sources, New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly at the recent Overseas Press Club event.

Dickey, an acclaimed novelist, non-fiction writer, and Paris Bureau chief and Middle East regional editor for *Newsweek*, posed probing questions to the police commissioner about how the



Charles Hack

Christopher Dickey signs his book at the reception before the talk with NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly.

police department's surveillance efforts aim to balance homeland security with civil liberties, and how their counter ter-

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# Oreskes Says "Digital Natives" Have the Advantage

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an immigrant, he challenged the young journalists to discover new forms of journalism and new models for media businesses, while — critically — maintaining the core values of the profession. Even as change engulfs the industry, he insisted that journalists remain independent observers of the world or they risk, as the German media executive Mathias Dopfner warned, "committing suicide out of fear of dying." Oreskes explained, "If journalists change so much we lose who we are, we will be just as dead as if we had not changed at all."

The thirteen 2009 OPC Foundation Scholarship winners who had just accepted their awards from representatives of the individual scholarships (see page 3) seemed eager to accept the challenge. The winners each had an opportunity to tell the audience something about themselves, their interests and career objectives. Besides a check for \$2,000, the recipients also received a year free membership in the Overseas Press Club.

Reuters hosted a reception honoring past and former winners of OPC Foundation scholarships the night before the luncheon at its headquarters in Times Square. The group met

with journalists the morning before the luncheon and later toured the Associated Press headquarters in the afternoon.

As master of ceremonies, OPC Foundation president William J. Holstein articulated the purpose of the scholarships as well as the Foundation's mission. Recognizing that American news organizations are undergoing a profound transformation, he noted, "the entire profession finds it emotionally gratifying to see the spark in the eyes of these young people." He added, "How else can we explain why so many people came to the luncheon at a moment of absolute despair in the industry." The OPC Foundation gave a special scholarship this year honoring Fred Wiegold, OPC Foundation board member, who died suddenly last summer after falling ill in the newsroom at Bloomberg News where he was a senior editor and former New York bureau chief.

The 2009 winners — selected from a pool of 200 applicants from 50 dif-



William J. Holstein, left, and Mike Oreskes

ferent colleges and universities — came from Columbia University, New York University, Oxford University, University of California at Berkeley, University of Oregon, and Western Kentucky University. Five of this year's winners also earned internships through the Foundation's partnership relationships with the Associated Press, Reuters, and the *South China Morning Post*. The Foundation will pay for the recipients' travel and living expenses for one month as they work in foreign bureaus. To obtain a program of the event, please e-mail [foundation@opcofamerica.org](mailto:foundation@opcofamerica.org).

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# 2009 OPC Foundation Scholarship Winners



Michael Dames

The 2009 OPC Scholars from left to right: Priti Patnaik, Michelle Theriault, Teresa Rerras, Haley Sweetland Edwards, Emily Witt, Jeff Horowitz, Jonathan Jones, Simon Akam, Jessica Wanke, Michael Miller, Stephen Nessen, Shipeng Guo and Maria Repnikova.

Following is a list of the thirteen 2009 scholarship recipients, their affiliations, the prize they won, the presenter, and a brief description of their winning applications. The winners emerged from a highly competitive selection process consisting of nearly 200 applicants from 50 different colleges and universities.

## **Maria Repnikova**

Oxford University

### **ALEXANDER KENDRICK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

*Sponsored by Daimler. Presented by Han Tjan, Head of North America Corporate Communications, Daimler.*

An admitted global migrant since childhood, the Latvian native wants to return to China where she once studied the language as a Fulbright Scholar. Now a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, the Georgetown graduate wrote about the plight of young Russian women who dance in Chinese disco clubs and hope for a better life. Fluent in Russian and Mandarin, Maria will spend the summer as an OPC Foundation intern in the Reuters bureau in Beijing.

## **Teresa Rerras**

Western Kentucky University

### **DAVID R. SCHWEISBERG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

*Sponsored by the Schweisberg Family. Presented by his brother, Matthew Schweisberg.*

As a former airline employee, Teresa traveled the globe and discovered — with

camera in hand — “the alley ways, back roads, and rural areas” of the world’s capital cities. Now a journalism student, she is honing her skills as a photojournalist and intends to return to record such stories, as she did in her essay, of the desperate lives of Afghan women who resort to self-immolation as their only recourse against domestic violence and oppression.

## **Shipeng Guo**

University of California/Berkeley  
Graduate School of Journalism

### **REUTERS SCHOLARSHIP**

*Sponsored by Reuters.*

*Presented by Brian Rhoads, Managing Editor of Americas, Reuters.*

By telling stories from “each side to the other with accuracy, insight and compassion,” Shipeng’s goal is to narrow the cultural divide that separates China and the West. Having worked for the *Christian Science Monitor* and Reuters in his native China, Shipeng intends to cover China’s economic and political modernization as a bilingual and bicultural reporter. He wrote about the major anniversaries that China will observe in 2009 and its impact on Chinese participants now living in the San Francisco Bay area.

## **Jonathan Jones**

University of California/Berkeley  
Graduate School of Journalism

### **HARPER’S MAGAZINE SCHOLARSHIP in memory of I.F.STONE**

*Endowed by John R. MacArthur and the*

*Pierre F. Simon Charitable Trust.*

*Presented by Rick MacArthur,*

*publisher of Harper’s Magazine*

A graduate of West Chester University (PA) with a master’s in journalism from Berkeley, Jonathan is now a post-graduate fellow in its investigative reporting program. He intends to continue his research on the role that Firestone plays in Liberia, a country still recovering from a devastating war. As Firestone seeks to resurrect its rubber plantation to fill the world’s need for latex medical supplies, Jonathan views its impact as a “cautionary tale about the successes and shortcomings of global capitalism.”

## **Haley Sweetland Edwards**

Columbia University

### **Graduate School of Journalism IRENE CORBALLY KUHN SCHOLARSHIP**

*Endowed by the Scripps Howard Foundation. Presented by John Howard-Potter.*

In her essay, Haley asked the disquieting question of how to control new media technologies to “provide the world’s people with more voice, not more violence,” especially in unstable regions already torn apart along ethnic, racial, or religious lines. A Yale graduate who was raised on a sailboat off the coast of Latin America, Haley intends to return to the region to cover the impact of new media — “the common language of the future.”

## **Jessica Wanke**

Columbia University School of  
International Public Affairs

### **H.L. STEVENSON SCHOLARSHIP**

*Sponsored by donations from family and friends. Presented by Bill Holstein.*

Jessica wrote about the disenchantment of Mazar-i-Sharif farmers and politicians, once among the most ardent U.S. supporters, who were left penniless when the West failed to follow-up its promises after the Afghans destroyed the poppy fields, their major cash crop. With a BA from Arizona State and a graduate certificate from Hebrew University (Jerusalem), Jessica hopes to pursue her career as a foreign correspondent in the Middle East and Central Asia.

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**Michael Miller**

New York University School of Journalism and Latin American Studies  
**STAN SWINTON SCHOLARSHIP**

*Endowed by the Swinton Family.  
Presented by his widow Helen and son Donald Swinton.*

A graduate of the University of Chicago, Michael describes a public housing crisis in Caracas made worse by policy paralysis. As developing countries everywhere struggle with rural-to-urban migration, President Hugo Chavez is unable to solve the issue of urban squatters on vacant public lands. A former resident of Northern Ireland and a fluent Spanish speaker, Michael will spend the summer as an OPC Foundation intern at the AP bureau in Mexico City.

**Simon Akam**

Columbia University  
Graduate School of Journalism  
**EMANUEL R. FREEDMAN  
SCHOLARSHIP**

*Endowed by family. Presented by Tobias Bermant.*

A British Fulbright Scholar, Simon wrote about the human toll of land mines and other incendiary devices that still remain in vast areas of Egypt, 65 years after the North African campaigns of World War II. An Oxford University graduate and former second lieutenant in the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, Simon speaks German and Arabic and will spend his OPC Foundation internship in the Reuters bureau in Jerusalem.

**Michelle Theriault**

University of Oregon  
**THEO WILSON SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Sponsored by donations from family and friends. Presented by family friend, Barbara Burns.*

Michelle tells the story of Adamu, queen of tuo-zafe, a spicy soup, in the festering slum of Sodom and Gomorrah in Accra, Ghana. A graduate of the Willamette University, Michelle intends to explore the lives of people hustling to survive amid the poverty and urbanization that is reshaping the cities of the developing world. She will travel to South Africa this summer as an OPC Foundation intern in the AP Johannesburg bureau.

**Stephen Nessen**

Columbia University  
Graduate School of Journalism  
**ROY ROWAN SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Endowed by family, friends and admirers. Presented by Roy Rowan.*

Steve believes that China's changing rural communities provide a better window for understanding the impact of China's powerful economy. In his essay, the Mandarin speaker describes his visit with nomadic Ewenki who earn their living selling antler products from their reindeer herd. A graduate of the University of Vermont, Steve will be the first OPC Foundation winner to intern with the *South China Morning Post*.

**Emily Witt**

Columbia University  
Graduate School of Journalism  
**FLORA LEWIS MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Endowed by the Pierre F. Simon Charitable Trust. Presented by Jacqueline Albert-Simon.*

Emily wrote about Beira, Mozambique, still recovering from war and harmed by the economic collapse of neighboring Zimbabwe, and "how two governments' longstanding alliance can ultimately make both countries' people suffer." A Brown graduate, Emily first traveled to Mozambique on a Fulbright fellowship. Fluent in Portuguese, she intends to return to Africa to investigate its problems through the eyes of individual citizens.

**Priti Patnaik**

New York University  
**S&P AWARD FOR ECONOMIC  
AND BUSINESS REPORTING**  
*Sponsored by Standard & Poor's.  
Presented by Michael Privitera, VP of Public Affairs, S&P*

A five-year veteran correspondent for Indian business publications, Priti is enrolled in NYU's certificate program in business and economic reporting. In her essay, Priti discussed the often complex relationship between regulators and the regulated and the need for "greater coordination among regulators across geographies." She has undergraduate degrees from Osmania University and B R Ambedkar Open University and a diploma from the Asian College of Journalism.

**Jeff Horwitz**

Columbia University  
Graduate School of Journalism  
**OPC FOUNDATION  
SCHOLARSHIP in memory of  
FRED WIEGOLD**

*Sponsored by the OPC Foundation.  
Presented by Karen Toulon,  
Bloomberg New York bureau chief*

In Eastern Congo's North Kivu province, a region devoid of passable roads and government infrastructure, somehow — Jeff writes — the beer delivery men have no problem. While well-meaning development projects collapse, the makers of Turbo King developed an "organic network capable of adapting to the population they serve." After completing a one-year business reporting fellowship, Jeff — a graduate of Pomona College — intends to return to East Africa to cover emerging markets.

## MANY THANKS

The Overseas Press Club Foundation is especially grateful for its Patrons and Friends who supported the 2009 Scholarship Luncheon. Their contributions ensure the continued success of our scholarship program.

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## PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

**NOTE:** This month's People column was written by OPC intern **Michael Burgevin**. We want to extend our appreciation to Michael for putting this column together. **Al Kaff** will be back for the April *Bulletin*. He suffered a heart attack at the end of 2008, spent several weeks in the hospital and six weeks in rehabilitation. He is now home and resumed e-mailing news and notes from the media world.

**GLOBAL:** To write that newspapers have been facing major budget and employee cuts feels almost comical in its over-simplicity. In the latest round of cuts, the *Los Angeles Times* said it would lay off 300 employees, including 70 newsroom staffers, *The Star Tribune* filed a chapter 11 bankruptcy petition, *The Boston Globe* announced plans to cut nearly 12 percent of their news and editorial staff, and Bloomberg Television and Radio laid off more than 100 employees in the last two months. *New York Magazine* has requested that its remaining staff members take a pay cut, and A.H. Belo announced that it would eliminate 500 jobs, one seventh of its staff. The Gannett Company reported a fourth quarter profit down 35.6 percent from the same quarter in 2007.

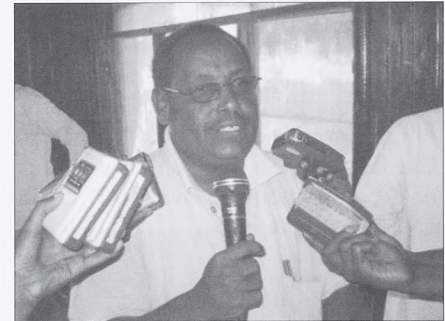
Meanwhile, the foreign language press has also faced hardship. Media Chinese International Limited, based in Hong Kong, announced in January that it plans to shut down the 12-year-old Chinese language newspaper *The Ming Pao Daily News* located in New York, although the company will continue to publish its free daily paper MP (NY). Spanish paper *Hoy New York* and *Asian-Week*, both located in New York, also ceased publication at the beginning of the year. Many of these news companies are finding new outlets through free publications and the internet, and Ming Pao's General Manager announced that even though the paper had ceased circulation, "we are here to stay," brave words for a time of shrinking revenues and newsroom staff.

In a recent analysis of the economics of modern media, **Mitch Ratcliffe** gives a breakdown of how much it costs to support a "great reporter" and how media companies can afford the price. Ratcliffe estimates that the price tag of an excellent journalist falls around \$180,000: \$130,000 in salary and benefits, \$4,800 a year in subscriptions and other information sources, \$2,500 a month in travel, and \$1,250 a month in legal and insurance coverage. The significance of capitalism is not lost on Ratcliffe, who stresses the importance of competitive incentives that drive the "next best story."



A campaign sign on the right for Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki of Iraq.

**BAGHDAD:** Prime Minister **Nuri Kamal al-Maliki** announced in the lead-up to the Iraqi provincial elections that the government plans to grant plots of land to journalists either for a nominal price or for free. Many have criticized his timing, as well as his admonition to journalists to focus on stories of progress, as an attempt to buy the support of the press, although there is no question among the Iraqi journalists that they deserve it. Before the privatization of Iraqi media sources following the American invasion, all domestic journalists in Iraq were employed by the government, receiving the wage and comfortable benefits bestowed upon all government officials. This is not the first time such legislation has been put forth, and the legitimacy of al-Maliki's promise has been questioned.



Sa'id Tahlil Ahmed

**BAKARO, Somalia:** Deputy Director **Sa'id Tahlil Ahmed** of the local radio station Horn Afrik was killed in January after being attacked by three gunmen. Although the motive for his murder remains unclear, local news reports suggest that he may have been killed due to the station's exhaustive coverage of the Somali presidential elections which took place on January 30. Ahmed is the second journalist to be killed in Somalia this year. **Hassan Mayow Hassan** of Radio Shabelle in Afgooye was shot by a pro-government militia on January 1 after soldiers accused him of collaborating with Islamic insurgents. Somalia is one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists due to political turmoil as Islamist rebels attempt to oust the transitional government.

**BRUSSELS:** Journalists' groups in Brussels condemned the **European Commission** for highlighting the threat of international spies posing as journalists in order to obtain sensitive or confidential information. The Commission drew criticism after the Belgian press obtained a classified letter from within the Commission that addressed issues of security infringements within the EU.

**Lorenzo Consoli** of the International Press Association reported to Deutsche Welle that journalists must "ask searching questions and get access to documents some politicians and officials would prefer for their own vested interests to keep out of sight." The com-

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mission has strongly denied any plans of limiting journalists' access to sensitive information.

#### COLLEGE PARK, Maryland:

Former NPR president and Washington Post journalist **Kevin Klose** was named dean of the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland last week as the school prepares for a comprehensive overhaul of the academic structure. During his 10 years at NPR, Klose doubled its listener base and tripled its budget. He plans to reshape the curriculum in order to better prepare students for the changing industry of journalism, refocusing energy towards the digital and multimedia reporting programs.



Kevin Klose



Upali Tennakoon lies on a stretcher as he awaits medical treatment at a hospital in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on January 23.

#### COLOMBO, Sri Lanka:

Editor **Upali Tennakoon** of the privately-owned *Rivira* newspaper and his wife were assaulted in January when four men on motorcycles blocked Mr. Tennakoon's car and beat the couple with iron rods and other weapons. Both sustained injuries and were admitted to a local hospital following the attack, but officials have announced that both are in stable conditions. Although the *Rivira* has maintained a fairly neutral status, its parent company has suffered harassment for its criticism of the government, offering a possible explanation for the assault on Tennakoons.

## Russia Continues Its Assault on Press Freedom

In a country that spends upwards of 17 percent of GNP on its defense budget, Russia cannot seem to protect its own journalists. The latest news-related attack took place on February 3 when **Yuri Grachev**, editor of the weekly *Solnechnogorsky Forum*, was hospitalized after his neighbors found the man unconscious and bleeding in his doorway. According to the CPJ, Grachev suffered from a concussion, broken nose, and lacerated cheek, and his briefcase went missing at the scene of the crime.

Members of the Russian press have been subjected to a rising number of attacks in the last year. Independent editor and political dissident **Mikhail Beketov** was beaten nearly to death in his own yard this past November and remains in the hospital. Local correspondent for the news agency Regnum Zhanna Akbasheva was also attacked and beaten in Karachai-Cherkessiya last December. In the same month, **Shafiq Amrakhov**, editor of the Murmansk-based online regional news agency *RIA 51*, was shot in the head. He died later that week in the hospital.

Immediately following the recent double homicide, **Dmitry Muratov**, editor of the besieged newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*, released a statement comparing his paper to a war zone and petitioning the government to allow the staff to carry guns. This request became all the more imperative when SOVA, a human rights center in Russia, received a letter from the neo-Nazi group known as "BTO" referencing Baburova and Stanislav's deaths, and promising the future deaths of more journalists and human rights workers.

The prominent Russian newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* has faced especially brutal attacks. On January 20, reporter **Anastasia Baburova** and the lawyer **Stanislav Markelov** were murdered by men believed to be hired assassins. Baburova is the fourth journalist from *Novaya Gazeta* to be murdered since 2000, including **Anna Politkovskaya** who was shot in 2006 after speaking out against then-President Vladimir Putin.

More disappointing news was delivered by a Moscow jury on Thursday, February 19, which ruled unanimously to acquit three men in the murder of Politkovskaya, frustrating state prosecutors' hopes of putting to rest a case that cast a shadow over Vladimir V. Putin's Russia. *The New York Times* wrote: "By skirting the single most important question — who ordered the killing of Ms. Politkovskaya — the proceedings made the case more corrosive." The presiding judge ordered that the case be reopened the next day and told the Interfax news agency that he would give investigators evidence.

**Alexei Venediktov**, the editor of independent radio station Ekho Moskv and 2007 OPC Artyom Borovik Award winner, found an ax stuck in a log in front of his apartment door and a video camera rigged up nearby on February 4. The **OPC Freedom of the Press Committee** wrote to Russian President Dmitri Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on February 9: "Venediktov's Ekho Moskvi is and has always been one of the few shining points in the very dark world of Russian media." The Committee called on the government to order a thorough investigation of this attempt to intimidate the station and its editor. The OPC Freedom of the Press Committee has written a total of five letters so far this year to the Russian government — on January 5, 16 and 22, February 9 — including one on February 23 following the acquittal of the accused murderers in Politkovskaya's case.



Dmitry Muratov



Anna Politkovskaya



Aleski Venediktov



The attack came two weeks after the murder of **Lasantha Wickramatunga**, founder and chief editor of the *Sunday Leader* newspaper and leading government critic. His assassination marked the eleventh killing of media employees in Sri Lanka since 2006. After his death, the *Sunday Leader* published an article he had penned predicting his own assassination at the hands of the government due to his political dissidence. Many reporters have stated that governmental intimidation in Sri Lanka has worsened as the war between the government and the Tamil Tigers intensifies.



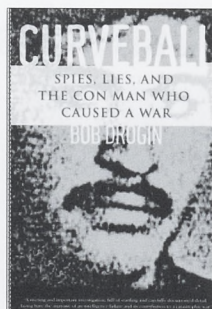
**Lasantha Wickramatunga**

**HANOI:** After spending eight months in prison for his exposition on governmental corruption in Vietnam, investigative reporter **Nguyen Viet Chien** of the *Thanh Nien* newspaper was granted a presidential pardon, much to the relief of his family and friends. His sister, Nguyen Thi Viet Hang told a BBC reporter that she was both "overjoyed and relieved" by his early pardon. Chien, 56, was arrested last May for his coverage of the PMU-18 scandal, which involved the embezzlement abusing public funds by government officials. Chien was originally sentenced to two years in prison. Reporters Without Borders stated that Chen's imprisonment was "a terrible step backwards for investigative journalists in Vietnam."



**Nguyen Viet Chien**

**LONDON:** Emily Rotberg, who won the OPC's Freedman scholarship in 2007, is now in London freelancing for the *Financial Times* after completing a two-month internship. In correspondence with OPC Executive Director **Sonya Fry**, Emily discussed the opportunity of covering the first British bank run since 1973, as well as reporting on emerging markets and U.K. news stories.



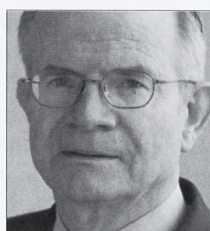
**Bob Drogin**

**LOS ANGELES:** The OPC is happy to hear that *Parade Magazine* recently selected **Bob Drogin's** book *Curveball: Spies, Lies, and the Con Man Who Caused a War* as one of eight books President Obama should read this year. *Curveball* won the OPC's 2007 Cornelius Ryan Award for best non-fiction book on international affairs, and we congratulate Drogin for his success.

**Abigail Goldman** was one of the many who raised her hand to leave the *Los Angeles Times* this year. Goldman was the last of the four-reporter team that won the Pulitzer Prize in 2004 for a series on the global impact of Wal-Mart. She has been working in the business section of the *Times* since 1998, recently specializing as their "green-business" reporter.

**MEXICO CITY:** Tracy Wilkinson of the *Los Angeles Times* was recently transferred from Rome to Mexico City where she took on the position of bureau chief. In a recent correspondence with Executive Director **Sonya Fry** of the OPC, Wilkinson expressed her excitement heading up the bureau in Mexico, exclaiming "it's a great story." Ms. Wilkinson has been with the *Los Angeles Times* since 1997.

**NEW YORK:** The Committee to Protect Journalists has called on President Obama to halt the detention of overseas journalists by the United States military. In a letter to the President, **Paul E. Steiger**, Chairman of the CPJ, expressed that "journalists in many countries who risk



**Paul E. Steiger**

their lives and liberty upholding the values of free expression look to the United States for support." The letter referenced the 14 cases in which the U.S. military detained journalists for long amounts of time without due process in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo. Ibrahim Jassam, a photo-journalist for Reuters, is still being held even though the Iraqi Central Criminal Court ordered his release last September.

The International Women's Media Foundation announced the appointment of five new members to its board of directors earlier this month. **Cindi Leive, Eugene Robinson, Maria Elena Salinas, and Kalpana Sharma**, and **Ann Curry**, who presented at the OPC awards dinner this past year. They will all join the board under co-chairs **Akwe Amosu**, senior policy analyst for Africa at the Open Society Institute, and **Campbell Brown**, host of No Bias, No Bull at CNN. Founded in 1990, the IWMF is a global network dedicated to furthering the roles and careers of female journalists around the globe.

The IWMF is now accepting applications for the 2009-10 Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship. Full-time, part-time or freelance women journalists working on human rights or social justices issues are eligible for the fellowship. Recipients spend nine months in a tailor-made academic research program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. During that time, Neuffer fellows may also work with the *Boston Globe* or *The New York Times*. The Neuffer Fellowship includes housing with a family; a stipend to cover meals, ground transportation, and other living expenses; and health insurance. It does not provide a salary or honoraria. Applications will be accepted until April 15 and the fellowship will run from September 2009 to May 2010. Go to the IWMF Website at [www.iwmf.org](http://www.iwmf.org) for more information on the fellowship.

**TOWSON, Maryland:** NBC News has drawn a significant amount of criticism for the development of a new investigative program that teams up the NBC staff with law enforcement

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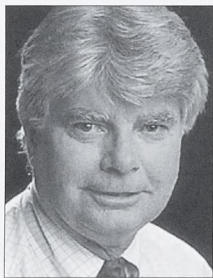
officers to track down and convict war criminals. For more than a year, NBC has been investigating possible human rights offenders in several countries. The program, which has been compared by many to NBC's previous show *To Catch a Predator*, was coldly received by the Department of Homeland Security. Representatives of the DHS stated that this type of show "could negatively impact law enforcement's ability to investigate" such crimes.

In December, a Rwandan prosecutor backed by an NBC news team confronted **Leopold Munyakazi**, a faculty member at Goucher College, for his alleged participation in the 1994 Tutsi genocides in Rwanda. Refusing an initial interview with NBC, Munyakazi stated that he had never taken part in genocide, insisting that he had "saved a number of people." Alison Des Forges of Human Rights Watch said recently that she believes Munyakazi was wrongly accused.

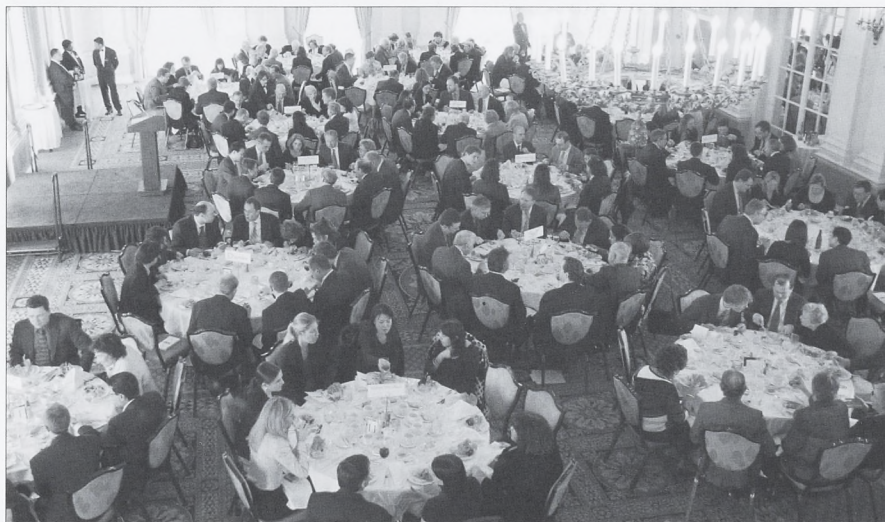
Many media and human rights organizations have decried NBC's program as potentially damaging to the role of reporting. "As journalists, we struggle to keep an arm's length from all sorts of officials, whether they're cops or prosecutors or diplomats because it's really important that our audience view us as independent, not carrying water for someone else," **Kelly McBride** of Poynter Group told *The New York Times*.

### People Remembered

No one knew New York's elite like **James Brady**, who died on January 26 in his home in Manhattan. Famous as a driving force behind *The New York Post's* "Page Six" and his column "In Step With" from *Parade Magazine*, which ran for 25 years, Brady has worked for and run a myriad of news outlets, including *Harpers Bazaar*, *Women's Wear Daily*, *W*, *New York Magazine*, and *Star Magazine*. Brady was also well known as a war novelist. After serving in Korea in his youth, he



## Photos from the Scholarship Luncheon



A view from above at the 2009 OPC Scholarship Luncheon.

Right: OPC Scholar Shipeng Guo, left, with OPC Foundation Board Member Paul Mason.

More photos of the event are on page 12.



Photos: Michael Dames

published several novels, including the critically acclaimed memoir, *The Coldest War* (1990).

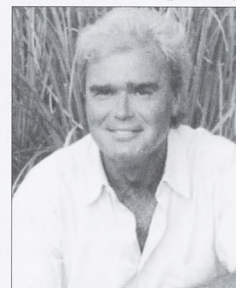


When **Rob Roy Buckingham** failed to pass the military's medical entrance exam to fight in World War II, he signed with United Press International to work as a foreign correspondent and editor. After eighteen years at UPI, Buckingham joined *The New York Times* in 1960 where he worked as the editor-manager of *The New York Times News Service*. In 1977, Buckingham signed an agreement with Tass that allowed Western embassies and business offices in Moscow to receive *The Times'* services. Buckingham, 88, died in Sarasota, Florida, from complications following a gall bladder surgery last month.



After serving in the U.S. Marine

Corps, war correspondent **Malcolm MacPherson** took a job as a staff correspondent at *Newsweek* reporting from Boston, Chicago, and Los Angeles before moving abroad to foreign postings in Nairobi, Paris and London where he covered many war zones including the Cyprus invasion. Declining a domestic posting in San Francisco, MacPherson subsequently moved into a tree house in Kenya where he wrote and published his first book, *Protégé*. In 2003, *Time* magazine sent MacPherson to Iraq to report on the consequences of the U.S. invasion, which led to the publication of *Hocus Potus*, a satiric look at the search for weapons of mass destruction.



MacPherson, 65, died on January 17 after suffering from a heart attack at a friend's home in Chevy Chase, Maryland.



# Mexican Journalist Emilio Gutiérrez Soto Released by U.S. Immigration Pending Hearing

by Kevin McDermott

Advocating on behalf of journalists in jeopardy can be a discouraging business. To most appeals the response is likely to be silence. That's what makes the case of Emilio Gutiérrez Soto, US asylum prisoner A #077 491 780, as heartening as it is.

In June of last year Gutiérrez, a reporter for *El Diario del Noroeste* in Ascensión, fled to the United States. He felt his life was in imminent danger from not only Mexican drug cartels but the soldiers meant to be pursuing them. Gutiérrez made enemies in the Mexican Army as far back as 2005 by reporting that soldiers were involved in crimes. An Army major told him to stop writing, saying, "You should be afraid of us." On May 5, 2008, several dozen soldiers raided his home (allegedly in search of drugs and weapons). Gutiérrez reported this home invasion in *El Diario del Noroeste*. Weeks later a friend told him the Army had marked him for death. On June 15 Gutiérrez entered Columbus, NM, with his son and identified themselves to U.S. border patrol. They were arrested, and Gutiérrez was sent to federal prison in El Paso.

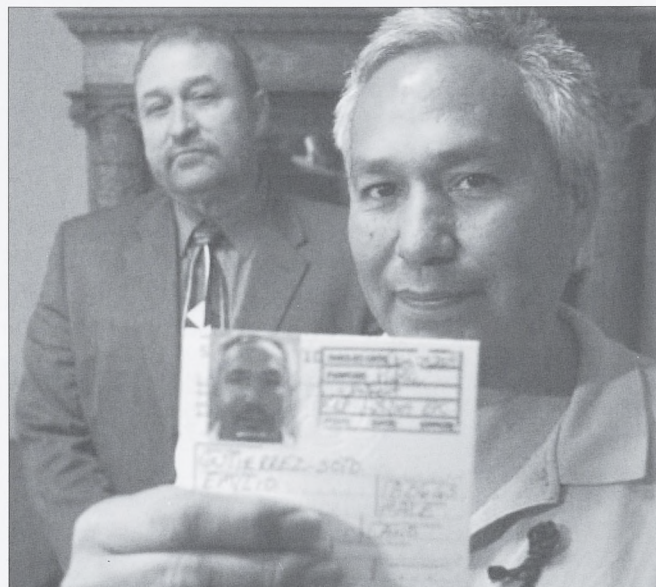
Over the next six months repeated appeals for his release were denied. On December 5 the Freedom of the Press Committee of the Overseas Press Club approached Robert E. Jolicoeur, the field officer director for U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement in El Paso. The committee vigorously argued the case for Gutiérrez.

"While it may be difficult to fit the case of Mr. Gutiérrez strictly into the rules for granting asylum," we contended, "he certainly fulfills one primary requirement: his life is threatened by his own government." Gutiérrez, we insisted, was no danger to the United States and unlikely to flee.

The heart of our argument was that Mexico is now a very dangerous place, especially for journalists like Gutiérrez who cover crime and government corruption. Some twenty five Mexican journalists have been murdered for their work since 2000. Others have disappeared without a trace. Only a few weeks before we wrote to Robert Jolicoeur, a colleague of Gutiérrez on *El Diario del Noroeste*, Armando Rodríguez Carreón, was shot dead outside his house in Juarez. A journalist on his way to the Rodríguez funeral, Jorge Luis Aguirre La Polaka, received a call on his mobile phone saying he was next. Aguirre has now joined Gutiérrez in exile.

"Mexican journalists," we told Jolicoeur, "stand almost alone in telling the public about the crimes of drug cartels and about the incompetence and corruption of the government, police and army officials who are often in alliance with the gangs. One by one, the voices of the press in Mexico are being silenced by murder, kidnappings or simply by the fear of suffering the fate of so many colleagues. Under these terrible circumstances, the United States should offer a haven to those under immediate threat, not imprisonment."

The immigration officials did not respond to our plea for Gutiérrez. In the next several weeks the Gutiérrez case continued to simmer. In January Reporters Without Borders added its voice. On January 29 he was released pending an immigration



At a news conference, Emilio Gutiérrez Soto shows a permit that allows him to stay in the U.S. At left is his lawyer, Carlos Spector.

hearing in March.

Gutiérrez remains in legal jeopardy. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, political asylum is not routinely granted on grounds that an individual fears violence or threats by government forces. The Overseas Press Club will continue to track the case of Gutiérrez, and hold immigration officials to account.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

**Megha Bahree**  
Staff Writer  
*Forbes* magazine  
Active Resident – Young

**Melissa Chan**  
Reporter/Producer  
Al Jazeera  
Beijing  
Active Overseas –Young

**John Connolly**  
Freelance Writer/Journalist  
Dublin, Ireland  
Active Overseas

**Travis Fox**  
Senior Videojournalist  
*The Washington Post*  
Active Resident – Young

**John Koppisch**  
Associate Editor  
*Forbes* magazine  
Active Resident

**Nicholas Logothetis**  
Consultant  
News Corporation  
Associate Resident – Young

**John Yemma**  
Editor  
*The Christian Science Monitor*  
Boston  
Active Non Resident

**ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE**  
George Bookman, Chair  
David Fondiller  
Felice Levin  
Linda Goetz Holmes



# Holstein Contends GM Is Backbone of U.S. Economy

## EVENT RECAP: FEBRUARY 19

by Dave Fondiller

Should General Motors be saved or left to face bankruptcy? For business journalist William J. Holstein, the answer is clear.

"The cost of allowing GM to collapse would be far greater in my view than giving them this \$30 billion loan," Holstein said on February 19 at Club Quarters, speaking before an audience that included representatives from GM and Ford. "At the end of the day, they are still the backbone of the American economy. A GM with a smaller American footprint that's sustainable is an important way to build us out of this crisis."

As part of a tour to promote his new book, *Why GM Matters: Inside the Race to Transform an American Icon* (Walker & Co., February 2009), Holstein argued that GM has become a potent competitor against Toyota Motor of Japan after years of retooling and that the Obama administration should do everything it can to keep the world's largest automaker in business.

Holstein's talk was unusually timely since just two days earlier, GM and Chrysler submitted recovery plans to the Treasury Department, as required under the terms of their emergency loan deal. GM asked for at least another \$16.6 billion, in addition to the \$13.4 billion it has already received in December, to become smaller, leaner and, it hopes, profitable. The story dominated the week's headlines.

According to Holstein, GM is a far different company than the one portrayed on Capitol Hill and in the media. With the right economic climate, he said, the company could compete successfully on the world stage and earn a profit by 2010 or 2011.

"I think it's possible and credible to think that a leaned down General Motors, if they can get through credit freeze...could surprise the world by having outdesigned [Toyota], and maybe beating them on cost and price.... I think they're better than Toyota. I think they have leapfrogged their design. Toyota still makes fine cars, but they're not exciting."

Holstein pointed out two major problems with allowing GM to file for bankruptcy protection: First, surveys have shown that around eighty percent of consumers will not buy a car from a company in bankruptcy — so bankruptcy would cripple the company's chances for jumpstarting sales. Second, a managed or "pre-packaged" bankruptcy would require only a small fraction



Author Bill Holstein enjoys book signing with pals Larry Martz and Fred Ferguson.



Photos: Sonya K. Fry

Larry and Dorothea Smith flank the author of the day, William J. Holstein, who stands with friends Rita Sevell and John Q. Adams.

of GM's suppliers to go along with the terms of the reorganization, and would run the risk of having some of the many thousands of other suppliers refusing to comply with new prices. That would cripple GM's production lines.

When asked about key developments to watch, Holstein cited three: 1) Whether President Obama will get involved directly in helping GM and Chrysler; 2) what role the presidential task force — set up to assess the companies' restructuring efforts and the plight of the rest of the American auto industry — will play; and 3) whether the U.S. financial system can get credit flowing again.

Obama faces very tricky political challenges on at least three fronts: One is that he cannot appear to go soft on the United Auto Workers, which helped him win the election. He has to insulate himself from any appearance that he is engaging in an election payback. Second, he faces tough opposition from so-called "transplant" states that are home to operations of foreign-based automakers that want to see the transplants gain sales and jobs at the expense of the Big Three; and third, Obama will have to fend off Nancy Pelosi and Henry Waxman, the California Democrats who are passionate about air quality at the expense of other considerations. "Obama has to manage himself very carefully to make it through this period," Holstein warned.

He also praised Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner, under whose leadership GM has been transformed into an industry innovator. He said GM has retooled its entire operation, from manufacturing and cost structure to design. As a result, GM has almost closed the gap with Toyota in terms of quality and productivity standards. Wagoner also deserves credit, he said, for improving relations with the UAW, aggressively globalizing GM's operations, and improving the design and innovation of its cars. As an example, Holstein cited the Chevy Volt, due out in 2010, which will be the first fully electric car.

A past OPC president and current president of the OPC Foundation, Holstein had unprecedented access to GM — from top executives and designers to line workers and union leaders — as he reported the book on three continents.

Ultimately, GM's survival will rise or fall on the strength of the economic recovery, Holstein suggested. "If the Obama administration can't get the credit flowing again, everything GM has done will have been a waste."



## Dickey Book Night:

(Continued From Page 1)

rorism operations overlap and sometimes clash with the FBI and CIA's own efforts because of difference in operational cultures.

Though New Yorkers are now accustomed to going about their lives safely in the city, because the city continues to be a prime target for terrorists, Kelly said his Department can never afford to take the "eye off the ball."

Dickey asked the police commissioner about modern surveillance capabilities, such as helicopters equipped with cameras that are able to spy into apartments, and his department's efforts to keep people safe without sacrificing privacy and personal freedom.

Kelly maintains the New York Police Department would not "violate the constitution in any way," saying his department has a team of top lawyers to make sure that citizen's rights are protected. For example, a decision to search passengers' bags on the subway following the July 7, 2005 bombings of the London Transportation system was upheld in court after a challenge from the ACLU.

"We are doing everything we can possibly do to make sure that all of our activities are lawful and constitutional," Kelly said.

Since 1980 anti-terrorism efforts between the NYPD and the FBI are meant to be coordinated by federal-led Joint Terrorism Task Force, but the Kelly established the Counterterrorism Bureau in 2002 after realizing that the city could not "rely solely on the federal government for its defense."

Whether it is resistance by federal agencies to allow the NYPD to encroach onto their own counter terrorist intelligence gathering activities, red tape designed to protect the integrity of the FBI and CIA, or an indifferent institutional culture, the NYPD has often been frustrated with the slow pace at which federal agencies have been obtaining approvals for wire taps.

Dickey pointed out that the commissioner was forced into a "nasty exchange" of letters last year with former U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey because the FBI and Justice Department were "dragging their heels" at getting court approval for wire tap warrants.



Chris Dickey, left, and Ray Kelly during the talk.

Kelly said the exchange was productive however, since the "process has improved dramatically," enabling the law enforcement to listen in on people "who posed a risk to the city."

Kelly, who himself served as an under-secretary for enforcement at the United States Department of the Treasury in the

mid-1990s, says that over-lawyered and bureaucratic federal agencies are not geared to responding quickly to a crisis. The hierarchical structure and core ethics allows the NYPD to respond to crisis round the clock.

"Although the NYPD is a huge police force, it is much more nimble and more practical than the federal government," Dickey said, adding that it was striking that the NYPD could do a lot that the "federal government could not seem to get its mechanism operating."

The speakers agreed that while the FBI and CIA had a hard time putting together a group of Arabic speakers after the terrorist attacks on 9/11, the NYPD was able to identify more than 50 to 60 Arabic speakers from its diverse rank-and-file very early on, to create "a cadre of master linguists" proficient in different dialects for undercover work and interrogations.

While Dickey suggested that this might be attributed to rigorous back-



Ray Kelly at the reception.

ground checks that would all but exclude someone who grew up "in the back streets of Karachi," Kelly said they also do security screening, the extent of which depends on the sensitivity of the position.

"It was the culture of the organization that enabled us to react quickly in 2002," Kelly said.

Another area where the federal agencies have had to accept competition from the NYPD is in overseas intelligence gathering. The NYPD has become active in this area through officers embedded with police departments in Paris, London, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv. The department also sends detectives in the aftermath of terrorist attacks around the world, Kelly said. This allows analysts back in the city to compare "real time information" that might show a connection with groups in New York City, such as phone calls, explosives and how the terrorists approached the operation, far more quickly than the FBI or CIA can, Kelly said.

Photos: Charles Hack



Photos from the **Scholarship Luncheon**  
Photos by Michael Dames



From left, Michael Oreskes speaks with OPC Scholar Emily Witt and others.



From left, president and CEO of the Associated Press Tom Curley with AP colleague Mary Rajkumer and Knight-Bagehot Fellow Jim Wyss.



Audrey and Seymour Topping flank OPC Scholar Maria Repnikova.



OPC Scholar Priti Patnaik is flanked by S&P supporters Michael Privitera and Joydeep Mukherji.



Jack Howard-Potter with OPC Scholar Haley Sweetland Edwards.

**Coming Up...**

Save the date:

**OPC 70th Annual  
Awards Dinner**

Wednesday, April 22  
Mandarin Oriental Hotel  
New York City

Overseas Press Club of America  
40 West 45 Street  
New York, NY 10036 USA